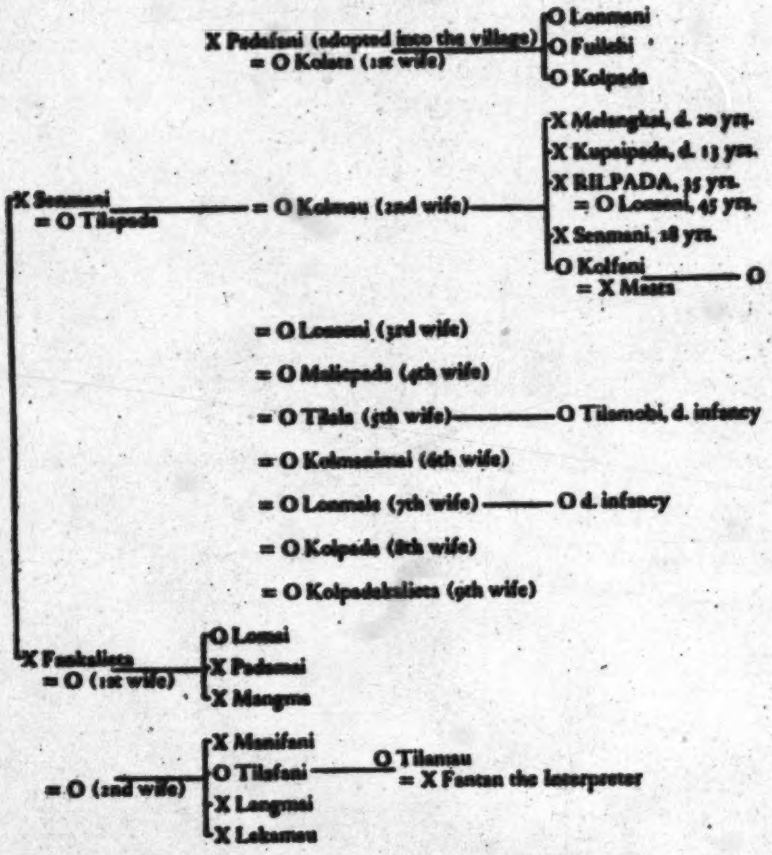
X 159
115
601

**Genealogy of Rilpada**




X 159 bamboo tubes full [twenty to thirty rats to a tube]. When we finished blackening our teeth, we told the girls, twenty-two of them, to pound and cook corn. We had a feast. Each girl was given seven rats. We boiled the rest of the rats and drank the soup to set the dye in our teeth. There were thirty boys. When we returned to the village, Padamale, who had blackened our teeth, collected all of us together and we paid him. He got fifty-two arrows. Our elders had helped us collect them and there were some left over, so the next day our elders suggested that we shoot at targets for them. They set ten banana stalks at

[152
304
386]
X 159
● 526

1:Du Bois E-5 (1938-1939) 1944
OF5 Alor OF5



one end of a space and ten at the other. We each had one arrow to start with and we got all those we shot into the targets. I hit them all and got twenty arrows. Then I stopped and went back to the village. The others kept on trying until all the arrows were given away. There were ten contestants.

When I was about sixteen, my younger brother, Senmani, and Fantan were outside the house. Padalani came along with his younger brother, Atama, and one other person. We were playing a circle game. Padalani said he had tagged Fantan as Fantan tried to escape from the circle. Fantan said he hadn't. We began fighting. Padalani and I were very angry. We fought with cassava stalks and he hit me on the head. Then I took a peastalk and hit his head. Padalani picked up a stone and threw it at me. It hit my head and blood streamed down, so I went to Manikalieta, the former chief of Dikimpe. We all sat down on the ground in front of him [as is customary in litigation]. He fined Padalani twenty-five cents. He paid for his fault. Then the chief said, "Another time are you going to fight or not?" I said we wouldn't fight any more. The chief asked, "Are you going to act like father and child?" and I said we were. Then he asked Padalani the same things. We promised not to exchange blows any more and if we fought to fight only with words. The chief then told us to go.

When we went away, Padalani called me and said, "I've made you bleed, so we had better be friends." He gave me a chicken and fifteen cents. Later when Padalani fed his Rui Nai [a form of sacred hearth], I gave him a pig to sacrifice. Then he set food out for me. He didn't speak but just looked at the food, and I knew it was for me. I took it and ate it. When the Yetok feast was given [customary time for exchanging food gifts], he gave me young corn, fish, coconuts, and rats. I gave him meat my father had, and rats and coconuts too.

Once Padalani called me to go hunt rats on a level place. Padalani got seven. We went to make a playhouse and built a fire. We set out flat stones and fed them, calling on our ancestors to come eat. There was a scorpion in the stones and it bit my thumb. I cried. Padalani told me to hold out my thumb and he would urinate on it. He opened his loincloth and urinated on my finger to cure it. [Interpreter and informant giggle a bit at this point.]

The next day Padalani called me again to come to the field house. We got a rat and I cut a banana stalk to eat. While we were cooking, three men—Lakafani, Fankalieta, and Maleta—came into the house. The house was weak and collapsed when the three men entered. I fell

1:Du Bois E-5 (1938-1939) 1944
OF5 Alor OF5



hung gongs to beat. I hit them with a stick, not a regular drumstick. I hit them hard and father was angry. He struck me with the end of a rope. Then when father roasted a goat he gave me its heart. I still remember that.

When I was about six or seven, Fanlani and I went to a ravine. We said, "Let's go up and down this ravine by jumps." We were going down in jumps when Lakamau came and said, "Just go on jumping." I gave three more jumps and was near Lakamau [a man]. As I crouched to jump again, he shoved me in the back and I fell, wounding my head. He picked me up and carried me home. He lied to mother, saying that I had been jumping and had fallen and hurt my head, so he brought me home. Then mother heated some water and bathed my head. [Did you tell your mother the truth?] No, because when Lakamau was carrying me home he said, "Now, I'm taking you home. If you tell your mother that I pushed you, I'll beat you the next time I find you alone in the gardens." I was afraid to tell and didn't.

When I was about twelve or thirteen, we had a swing. We played there every day. One day we went but didn't notice that someone had cut the rope almost in two. We swung once and it didn't break. I climbed on with Fanlaka and Ataleti. Lanwala gave us a long swing. On the second swing the rope broke and we fell. I fell on Fanlaka and was not very much hurt. Fanlaka, though, just lay there dead. Lanwala ran toward the village, yelling that we were both dead, and everyone came running. Maleta rubbed red pepper on Fanlaka's teeth and he came to slowly. They carried us to the village. Tilamau cooked rice and fed us. That evening I was well and could play. I just had the wind knocked out of me. But Fanlaka slept two days and his body was all swollen. [Who cut the rope?] I don't know. But after we had fallen, the older people saw it had been cut part-way through. [Who would want to do that to children?] We played there all the time and the older people scolded us. They told us to go away, but we would run off and then come right back again. I don't think the older people did it; maybe it was our elder siblings or our friends. [Why did older people chase you away?] They were discussing gongs and mokos, and we made so much noise they couldn't hear. They used to chase us and we would run, but come right back again.

*February 7, 1939*

When I was about sixteen or seventeen, Lakafani and his older brother, Langmani, were sleeping at Fuhieng in a field house. Alofe, I,